

Statistics

Population (2003)

Rhode Island:	1,076,164	metro	(0.4% of total U.S. metro)
	-----	non-	(0.0% of total U.S. non-metro)
	1,076,164	metro	
		total	
United States:	241,395,996	metro	
	<u>49,413,781</u>	non-metro	
	290,809,777	total	

Farm-Related Employment (2000)

Rhode Island:	80,872 jobs	(14.2% of total Rhode Island employment)
United States:	25,834,574 jobs	(15.6% of total U.S. employment)

Number of Farms (2002)

Rhode Island:	858	(0.04% of total U.S. farms)
United States:	2,128,982	

Average Farm Size (2002)

Rhode Island:	71 acres
United States:	441 acres

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold (2002)

Rhode Island:	\$55.5 million
United States:	\$200.6 billion

Top 5 Agricultural Commodities (2002)

Commodity	Value of receipts (thousand \$)	Percent of U.S. value
Greenhouse/nursery	30,560	0.2
Dairy products	3,032	0.0
Corn, sweet	1,426	0.2
Potatoes	825	0.0
Cattle and calves	744	0.0

Value of Agricultural Products Sold Directly to Consumers (2002)

Rhode Island: \$3.7 million
United States: \$812.2 million

Farmers Markets (2004)

Rhode Island: 17
United States: 3,617

Market Value of Certified Organic Commodities (2002)*

Rhode Island: \$270,000
United States: \$392.8 million

*(Data may not reflect actual industry growth after Oct. 2002 implementation of USDA National Organic Program.)

Certified Organic Acreage (2001)

Rhode Island: 210 acres
United States: 2,343,857 acres

USDA-Accredited Organic Certifying Agents (2005)

Based in Rhode Island: 1
Total: 96

Marketing Products and Services

New Farm-to-School Marketing Publication

Eat Smart—Farm Fresh! A Guide to Buying and Serving Locally-Grown Produce in School Meals (PDF) was published in December 2005 by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of USDA. The publication, which helps school lunch programs find locally-grown produce, was developed by a multiagency task force that included an agricultural marketing specialist from

non-profit organization.

Farm-to-School Report

How Local Farmers and School Food Service Buyers Are Building Alliances (PDF) helps small farmers and school food service buyers explore how they might establish direct marketing linkages.

Marketing via the Internet

How to Direct Market Farm Products on the Internet (PDF) is designed to help small/medium-sized agricultural producers better develop Internet-based sales transactions by recommending effective methods for reaching and retaining customers.

Trends in Farmers Markets

U.S. Farmers Markets—2000: A Study of Emerging Trends (PDF) assesses the importance of farmers markets as a distribution channel for farm products, documents the recent growth in farmers markets operations, and provides an updated profile of management, operations, and merchandising at farmers markets.

Market Research on Small Meat Processors

Enhancing Commercial Food Service Sales by Small Meat Processing Firms (PDF), published by AMS in cooperation with Texas A&M University, determines potential areas of competitive advantage for smaller scale meat manufacturing firms in supplying local restaurants and other local commercial food service accounts.